

4-4-1866

Letter from Mary Durang to Thomas White, April 4, 1866

Mary Durang

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Sturong & Co

Per Apr 4 / 66

My dear Brother

Your kind favor was received yesterday for which receive my thanks - It grieves me much to hear that you still continue so poorly but I hope this change in the weather will be of service to you, and that you will still adhere to your resolution to throw off some of your labors. - The overtaking of the mind wears the constitution out severely although it is necessary to have some employment for the mind and body yet incessant toil weakens and destroys it and as we advance in age we become less able to bear a strain.

I am pleased to hear that Kate's health is on the mend let it be ever so little, the improvement gives hope. - She should take advantage of the fine mountain

air to brace her nerves so that she might bear the trials she has had with patience.

I regret to hear that Richards' widow has been sick - sore throats are sometimes very worrying and obstinate against medical treatment... It is bad enough for any one to be sick but where there are small children to take care of it is worse.

I was much disappointed at not seeing you as you passed through your being so unwell when you left me.

Ella came in the day after you left her mother had got worse - I wished to go out but she was not anxious for me to do so and promised if she got still worse to let me know - As I did not hear anything from them I consoled myself with the idea that she was getting better, but it seems such was not the case - for she got so low that when she was ordered under the new treatment of electricity she was too far gone to go to the doctors in the cars and had to be driven

slowly in a carriage. -

I was however most agreeably surprised by a visit from herself yesterday - The new system has done wonders for her she says it has been a new life to her. -

I do not like things that profess to cure so much but certainly she looks wonderfully improved since I saw her last and has gained flesh. -

Mahton Savage had the ulcerated diptheria and was cured by the system of electricity. -

I suppose you heard that Harry McComer was in England. -

It seems George Whiteford is not able to sell the uncles property - The fenian business has depreciated property there so much. -

I think the high prices of the railroad freight and the large market-houses are just as injurious to us as the fenians are there

The market-houses are half the time empty and what they bring there they keep up their prices for. Only think from 90 cents to a dollar

for butter and almost every kind of
meat in the same proportion 30 to 35
cents a pound for beefsteaks - the same
for veal and ham while groceries
and dry goods have fallen to reasonable
rates in comparison to what they were.

Calfs liver that we used to get for 6 and
8 cents a piece now sell at from 60 to 80 cents
some days there will not be more than a
dozen stalls in the market houses filled
What can have got into the people? - I have
got very much puzzled - Mechanics
striking for higher wages, and putting a
stop to all work, so that people cannot
get any work done - and those that
want to do it, cannot get it to do.

Truly we have got entangled in a
grand labyrinth I wish we could get
out of it -

Wed is but poorly most of the people he
has been drawing plans for hold back
till the price of labor comes down so
he has to wait and look on in perspective
Pleasant no doubt - but not so substantial
as might be.

you may think I am in a
strange humour; - perhaps I am -
for I feel that I want to do something
that I can not accomplish -
With love to all believe me your
affectionate Sister Mary